

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An authentication method for identifying a user attempting to access an information source via a communication network, comprising the steps of:

storing a communication terminal ID assigned unique to each communication terminal used by a user and a personal ID assigned unique to each user so that the communication terminal ID and the personal ID are correlated, and

identifying a user attempting to access an information source by confirming the personal ID based on a received communication terminal ID of a communication terminal of a user.

2. An authentication system for identifying a user attempting to access an information source via a communication network, comprising:

a storage media which stores a communication terminal ID assigned unique to each communication terminal used by a user and a personal ID assigned unique to each user so that the communication terminal ID and the personal ID are correlated, and

authentication means for identifying a user attempting to access an information source by confirming a personal ID stored in the storage media based on a received communication terminal ID of a communication terminal of a user.

3. An information processing system for managing and providing

personal information of a user attempting to access an information source via a communication source, comprising:

a storage media which stores a communication terminal ID assigned unique to each communication terminal used by a user and a personal ID assigned unique to each accessing user so that the communication terminal ID and the personal ID are correlated and which stores personal information of the user correlated with the personal ID, and

authentication means for allowing access to the personal information correlated with the personal ID of the user by confirming the personal ID stored in the storage media based on a received communication terminal ID of the communication terminal of the user and identifying the user attempting to access an information source.

4. An information processing method for managing and providing personal information of a user attempting to access an information source via a communication network, comprising the steps of:

recognizing access to an information source of the user by an information terminal of the user,

receiving from the information terminal an information terminal ID assigned unique to each information terminal,

retrieving a personal ID of the user based on the information terminal ID, and

identifying the user based on the personal ID retrieved.

5. The information processing method according to claim 4,

comprising the steps of:

allowing a user identified in the identifying process to
access personal information stored in the information source.

6. The information processing method according to claim 4,
wherein

the information terminal ID and the personal ID are
correlated and stored, and

the personal ID is retrieved based on the information
terminal ID in the retrieving process.